United Nations S/2000/725

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 July 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 21 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I regret to inform you that serious violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law are still being perpetrated against innocent civilian populations in the Sud-Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Fresh large-scale massacres have just been committed against the Congolese civilian populations along the Lusenda-Lubumba highway (region of Fizi) by the troops of the regular armies of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, once more causing several hundred deaths, over 2,000 internally displaced persons and a large number of refugees, many of whom have been given shelter by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Kigoma (Tanzania).

My Government is outraged by the continuing policy of extermination of Congolese populations by the armies of these three countries and remains convinced that the repeated involvement of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda in massive violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law in Congolese territory is due, above all, to the feeling of security and encouragement on the part of these aggressor countries as a result of the fact that their actions have gone unpunished and have not been condemned by the Security Council since the start of their adventure in Congolese territory.

My Government therefore calls upon the Security Council, if it is horrified at these massacres, to take the following action under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to put an end to this situation, namely:

(a) Get Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda to immediately and completely cease, voluntarily or by force, their policy of exterminating the Congolese populations and to comply strictly with the Lusaka Agreement and other relevant commitments which they have freely given;

(b) Proceed with the plan to appoint a team to investigate the massacres and other atrocities committed by Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda against civilian populations in Congolese territory in order to identify those responsible and to bring them to justice in accordance with the relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions 1291 (2000) and 1304 (2000);

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(c) Ensure the rapid, total and complete withdrawal of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo which they are occupying in violation of the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and Security Council resolution 1304 (2000).

My Government would be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ileka **Atoki**
Minister-Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.